(c) and (d) The study has shown that the development of this waterway system for inland shipping and navigation is viable.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) and (g) Presently no foreign technical assistance has been sought for.

Master Plan for National Highways

3329. SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a master plan for building highways around the country have been evolved by Government; and

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the plan outlay, time frame etc.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The National Highway Development Project (NHDP) comprising of 4/6 laning of the existing national highways along the East-West and North-South corridor from Silchar to Saurashtra and Srinagar to Kanyakumari respectively and the Golden Quadrilateral connecting the four metros viz., Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai and Calcutta and Cochin-Salem spur on NH-47 has been launched. The entire project is estimated to cost Rs. 54,000 crores (at current prices) and is targeted to be completed by the year 2009.

Utilisation of Unutilised land at Kandla Port

3330. SHRI BRAHMAKUMAR BHATT: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to slate:

(a) the total area of land earmarked for Kandla port in Gujarat and the total land actually utilised by Kandla Port and other activities in the area for Central Public Sector Co-operative Undertakings;

(b) the remaining area of land lying unutilised;

(c) whether Government would support various activities relating to industrial development of this backward region and insist on land remaining idle with Kandla Port Trust; and

(d) if so, whether Government would issue necessary instructions to the Kandla Port Trust to negotiate with the State Government for release of the surplus land in Kandla area?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) and (b) A total area of land of Kandla Port Trust is 2,29,511 acres including 2,20,416 acres submerged land. A total land of 23,031 acres has been utilised by the Kandla Port Trust. The land which is lying unutilised is earmarked for expansion of the Port and port related facilities in future.

(c) The land available with Kandla Port Trust is to be used for supporting Development of Port and port related facilities which includes Port based Industries as well as such other industries which add to the cargo volumes at the Port.

(d) No, Sir.

Development of Inland Water Transport

3331. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has adequate design expertise to study the development of facilities to aid inland transport in rivers and delta areas in the country;

(b) whether it is a fact that there is active inland water transport in the delta areas of Andhra Pradesh;

(c) whether any study has been made of the full potential by Government;

(d) if so, when was this study made;

(e) if not, when such a study will be made to assess the full potential of inland water transport in the Godavari and Krishna Deltas of Andhra Pradesh; and

(f) the steps proposed in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir. Country boats and small mechanised boats operate.